



August 20, 2013

Assemblymember Anthony Rendon
Water Bond Working Group, Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee
1020 N Street, Room 160
Sacramento, CA 95814
Fax (916) 319-2196

Subject: Letter of support for an allocation of \$100M for the Bay Area in Section VIII of Clean Drinking Water & Climate Change Response Act of 2014

Dear Assemblymember Rendon:

I write to voice my support of inclusion in Section VIII of the Clean Water and Climate Change Response Act of 2014 an allocation of \$100 million for the preservation of habitat and watersheds in the Delta and Bay Area as one ecosystem. As the San Francisco Bay is a critical component of the Bay Delta, it is important for funding to be directly allocated for the health of the San Francisco Bay and for the Coastal Conservancy to oversee the allocation.

The challenges facing us are significant:

- Unhealthy ecosystems and the loss of critical habitat are directly affecting the quality and availability of clean drinking water, major storm buffers and the thriving biodiversity that we need for healthy communities.
- The Delta and Bay Area are home to two distinct but interdependent populations: hungry urban residents and the farmers who provide food. Water available for agriculture is one key piece of sustaining this important relationship.
- Sea-level rise and flooding will affect communities throughout the region including low-income neighborhoods in places like San Rafael's Canal District as well as global companies like Facebook and Google, whose offices abut the wetlands of the South Bay.

I work hand-in-hand with people around the Bay Area who care deeply and work tirelessly for the health of our ecosystems and the sustainability of our communities. The Open Space Council is a coalition of fifty organizations – nonprofits as well as city, county, regional, state and federal public agencies – involved in conserving, stewarding, and promoting the use of parks, trails, and open spaces in the San Francisco Bay Area. We see the challenges ahead with our state water infrastructure and believe that an allocation for the Bay Area in the 2014 Water Bond would yield benefits beyond the Bay Area region.

The Coastal Conservancy Bay Area Program would be a capable manager of the allocation because they have played an important role in the protection of our region's water and watersheds for the past 15 years with more than \$300M worth of preservation and restoration projects. They have a proven track record and strong relationships with the key leaders throughout the Bay Area. And most importantly for public dollars, the Bay Area Program has successfully leveraged previous funding and could effectively and efficiently do the same with this funding.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Fox
Executive Director